

JEAN ELIOT'S CHRONICLES OF CAPITAL SOCIETY DOINGS

Homecoming of President Will Stir Up Capital

DEAR SUSAN: Now that His Excellency Dr. Epitacio Pessoa, President-elect of Brazil, has departed, it would seem that Washington is in for a period of good old-fashioned summer quietness. It won't last long, for within the next week or ten days President Wilson will be back, bringing in his wake the various officials who have been helping him with his peace negotiations; and his return will certainly start something in the way of excitement if not of gaiety.

Then, before one can turn around, will come the visit of the Prince of Wales, quite the most thrilling event in a blue moon from the social point of view, to be followed in a few weeks by the no less thrilling visit of the King and Queen of Belgium. Yes, it has been officially stated that King Albert and Queen Elizabeth are coming and the announcement was made while the President and Mrs. Wilson were in Brussels. So you see there was something in the suggestion, made in my letter last week, that the seemingly authentic initials of their intention to visit the United States were merely to camouflage the situation until the President and Mrs. Wilson had paid their visit to Belgium and delivered an invitation to the sovereigns to return the call. In truth etiquette is a fearsome thing sometimes!

Belgian Rulers To Be White House Guests.

While in Washington the King and Queen of the Belgians will undoubtedly be the guests of President and Mrs. Wilson at the White House. They are starting off by entertaining the Prince of Wales and will have to be hosts to all the other visiting royalties lest somebody's diplomatic feelings be hurt. And probably, too, Queen Marie of Rumania will stay with them when she comes to this country within the next few months.

I don't know whether her approaching visit has been officially announced yet, but there seems to be no room for doubt that she is coming, and she's a personage whose arrival I'm looking forward to with particular interest. She's a beautiful woman, as well as a queen—that's a rare enough combination you'll admit—and a fine, strong, noble woman, who stood by her people in the hour of their desolation and won their love and admiration. And she's the first woman to be elected to the Institut de France since its foundation in 1795.

The President of France, the King and Queen of Italy, Clemenceau and a dozen others are spoken of as possible visitors to Washington, as you know, and there's even a rumor current that Marshal Poch, is coming over with the President on his return. Also General Andrade, sometime President of Venezuela, who is now in New York, is expected in Washington about the middle of August. He's met on an official mission, but he will doubtless be the recipient of a good many official courtesies. All this, however, is "in the air" of the future, and for the moment Washington is frankly dull and reveling in its dullness.

There's a suggestion in the atmosphere of the days before the war when "everybody" left town in June to remain until October, when the houses were boarded up and when there was little or nothing to do here. Lots of people are away—ever so many more than went away last summer—others are packing up preparatory to starting for the mountains or the sea, and those who are remaining at home are glad enough of a rest after the whirl of excitement and gaiety which marked the visit of the President-elect of Brazil.



MRS. FRANK HYATT, And little Miss Pauline Hyatt.

MRS. GEORGE F. AUTHIER, And her baby.

MRS. JOHN McDUFFIE, Wife of Congressman McDuffie, and their little girl.

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Persons Kept Busy Every Blessed Minute.

Dr. and Mme. Pessoa scarcely had time to draw breath while they were here. Neither did the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall, nor the Polks, nor the others who were privileged to take part in the festivities in their honor. And as for the officials of the State Department, who were responsible for arranging our visiting dignitary's program—well, they must feel the need of a rest cure and certainly they have earned it for everything went off according to Hoy's plan.

The round of entertaining began with the Vice President and Mrs. Marshall's dinner on Saturday evening, and included several official dinner parties and luncheons, as well as the inevitable trip to Mt. Vernon—this time aboard the Mayflower as guests of the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels. And by way of speeding the parting guests the Acting Secretary of State and Mrs. Frank L. Polk gave a reception at the Pan American building in their honor on Tuesday evening. They entertained Dr. and Mrs. Pessoa, Miss Laurita Pessoa and two or three other members of the party at dinner before the reception; and the Third Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Breckenridge Long gave an "overflow" party for the other members of the President's suite and taking their guests to the Pan American party.

Mrs. Pessoa and Daughter Both Perfect Dears.

Dr. Pessoa made a profoundly agreeable impression. He's so keenly intelligent and so evidently interested in what goes on about him. And Mme. Pessoa and the little girl—she's only twenty and pretty as a pink—are perfect dears. Of course, there was a distinctly formal tone to the

official functions given in honor of the visitors, but Mme. Pessoa and her daughter seemed to like to slip away from all this and enjoy themselves in a quite informal way.

They had tea at the Cafe St. Marks with friends one afternoon, and on the evening that the Secretary of the Treasury gave his dinner for Dr. Pessoa they dined at Wardman Park Hotel with the members of the Brazilian embassy staff as hosts. The other ladies of the Brazilian party, some of the younger secretaries and the American naval and military aides were included among the guests and afterward they joined in the dancing which goes on at Wardman Park Hotel every evening. Dr. Pessoa and the other members of his suite arrived later, coming from the dinner at the Willard, and it was all very pleasant and free from pomp and ceremony.

Finally the orchestra played some special South American airs and there was a dance or two in which only some of the Brazilians took part, to the great delight of the assembled guests. "Why, she looks as young as her daughter!" "Isn't she a dear, and hasn't she a pretty figure?" and "Clothes, my dear, they must be just from Paris"—there you have a sample of the comment wherever Mme. Pessoa appeared, for she is young and slim and chic and always looks as though she were having a perfectly wonderful time.

Paris Gowns of Madame Pessoa.

As a matter of fact, Mme. Pessoa's clothes, undoubtedly, are "just from Paris." She has been in the French capital for several months. Dr. Pessoa having been the Brazilian delegate to the peace conference, and what woman—particularly one about to be initiated into the role of "First Lady of Brazil"—could resist this chance to purchase a Paris trousseau?

The gown she wore at Wardman Park Inn was of black satin striped with silver and combined with lots of tulle; and her costume at the Pan American party was of cloth of gold

with an overdress of jetted tulle. Both were very short—Paris will have it so—and the ball gown had a very scant straight slip and a narrow panel train which started somewhere under the tunic and followed at heel like a well-trained dog. The tunic, with its straight lines of fine jet, all same like falling rain, and its puffed border of black and blue and gold, was made chemise fashion. The oval neck line was outlined in the jet embroidery and so were the kimono sleeves which were caught together on the shoulders and just above the elbows. There was a girle of cloth of gold and Mme. Pessoa wore a bandeau of cloth of gold outlined in brilliant, a lovely string of pearls and a handsome diamond corsage ornament. En passant, it may be well to remark that few women old enough to have grown daughters can carry off a narrow, scant frock as well as Mme. Pessoa can—and that it is dangerous to try.

Other Gowns Seen At the Affair.

Another gown which I suspected of being a Paris model was worn by Mrs. Peter Goelet Gerry, who has just come back from abroad. It was white—she wears white a great deal in the evening and wears it better than most—and was fashioned of soft satin. The skirt, which was neither very short nor very narrow, was turned up in harem fashion. Across the front of the gown there was a tunic of white chiffon covered with opalescent paillettes in a floral design and this was turned up like the underskirt. The same opalescent chiffon was used in the draped bodice and the straight panel hanging from the shoulders which started out to be a train, changed its mind and tucked itself away under the hem of the skirt. A lovely string of matched pearls was Mrs. Gerry's only ornament.

Mrs. Frederick H. Gillett, wife of the Speaker, who has lovely clothes and wears them well, had on a gown of hydrangea blue chiffon, gracefully draped and guileless of trim ming save for a deep girle of blue and silver brocade, which was draped over the hips and fastened under a cluster of blue and silver flowers. Mrs. Polk's simple draped gown of white satin gained distinction from its odd garniture of jet on the bodice—she had jet buckles on her white slippers, too, and Mrs. John Skelton Williams looked amazingly handsome in a severe gown of jet, with a graceful gourd feather ornament in her hair.

But a true to clothes—save for a passing mention of the quaintest of midnight blue crepe kimono, grided with a huge embroidered obi, which was worn by little Mme. Nuida, wife of the third secretary of the Japanese embassy. She is an adorable little person, fragile and dainty as a flower, and not bigger than the proverbial pint of soap. And she has the prettiest hands imaginable, hands which she uses as only a Japanese woman, to whom the use of the fan is a ceremonial, knows how.

State receptions at the Pan-American Building are more or less standardized. In summertime the lovely gardens are in use, in winter they can only be admired from the great windows of the Hall of the Americas. The receiving line takes its stand at the entrance of the ballroom or sometimes at the head of the great staircase which skirts the patio. Usually there's dancing and supper is served in the long room downstairs. The library, I believe it is, on the terrace or both, with a seated supper for the special guests of the occasion and a little company of notables.

Vice President Greeted Dr. Pessoa.

Vice President Marshall was the President's deputy in the matter of welcoming the President-elect of Brazil to the United States, and President Wilson cabled to Mr. Marshall to receive Dr. Pessoa's call of ceremony at the White House—a particularly graceful thing to do to my thinking. As counselor of the State Department Mr. Polk stepped into Secretary Lansing's shoes when he went abroad, so consequently he shared with Vice President Marshall the pleasant duty of playing host to Dr. Pessoa.

So quietly was the new post created and filled that I doubt if half the people in town know that Mr. Polk is now Under Secretary of State instead of Counselor of the State Department. And yet several years ago when a bill was introduced in Congress creating the post of under secretary, there was a cry to high heaven and the measure was defeated because it was an aping of foreign ways and customs! One wonders if Congress had something slipped over its eye in this time. If it was too busy juggling over the League of Nations a bold about anything else, or if it was because the measure was somewhat emasculated that it got by this time without opposition.

The original idea was to create an under secretary who could lighten the burden of duties of the Secretary of State, and who was empowered to act with all the dignity and much of the authority of his chief. The post of counselor was to be retained.

lock, now minister to Belgium, has been offered—and has accepted—the post of American ambassador to Italy to succeed Thomas Nelson Page; but nothing has yet been done at this end of the line. On the other hand the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recommended that the appointment of Hugh Gibson as minister to Poland should be confirmed, and likewise the appointment of Boaz Long as minister to Cuba. Mr. Long, who has for some time been American minister to Salvador, has been in Washington for nearly a year handling some important matters in the division of Latin-American affairs of the State Department.

Rumor Mr. Polk Wants to Resign.

It has been persistently rumored that Mr. Polk wanted to give up his post and was only waiting the return of Secretary Lansing to hand in his resignation. It's to be hoped this isn't true or that he'll like his new job well enough to hang on to it. He's the type of man we need in public life—upright, brainy, cultivated, an aristocrat to his finger tips, yet friendly and approachable—there's truth in the saying that the aristocrat makes the best democrat. And Mrs. Polk's a charming hostess and a distinct acquisition to society.

The post of counselor wasn't always an important one. In fact it wasn't even listed in the Congressional Directory, that "Who's Who" of government officials, for many years. But it assumed new importance when that famous international lawyer, John Bassett Moore, took the job and it was decreed that the counselor instead of the First Assistant Secretary of State should act for the Secretary in his absence. And it was a man-size job by the time Frank Polk took hold.

Moreover, he got his baptism of fire early, for two days after he was sworn in Secretary Lansing went away to fish for bass—he was worn out and in need of a vacation—leaving the new Acting Secretary to handle such delicate matters as the "Dumb Incident" Germany's exceedingly unsatisfactory note about the Arabic case, Mexico boiling over on the border and Haiti being pacified and rejecting the process. That was several years ago, in 1915, to be exact, but the capacity which Mr. Polk displayed on that occasion has never failed him. His appointment has not yet been confirmed, but it's only a matter of time for confirmation has been recommended by the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, and there's no opposition.

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